

friend, was sexually assaulted, strangled and left naked on the side of the California road.

The police in California said that this sick and deranged person may do this terrible act again to another child based on the way he left this poor child's body on the side of the road. They say this may be his calling card. Parents throughout the Nation are both shocked and frightened that this could happen to their child.

Over 2,000 children are reported missing to law enforcement every single day. While Congress focuses on restructuring its homeland security, we must be made aware of the incredible efforts that the FBI and other law enforcement agencies provide in retrieving these children and finding their abductors. We must make sure that these agencies have the manpower and resources necessary to continue these efforts.

To that end, as cochairman of the Congressional Missing and Exploited Caucus, I will work with the gentleman from Texas (Mr. LAMPSON), the Committee on the Judiciary and the administration to ensure the work on legislation to increase both criminal and civil penalties for abductors and provide the necessary funding for our law enforcement agencies.

STATE DEPARTMENT NOT HELPING RETRIEVE KIDNAPPED AMERICAN CHILDREN

(Mr. LAMPSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to continue my talks about Ludwig Koons, the 9-year-old little United States citizen who is being held in the country of Italy.

Last week I met with Ambassador Salleo of Italy, and I want to thank the Ambassador from Italy, for he is trying to help this American citizen come back home to the United States where he belongs.

This is more than I can say for our own State Department. Two weeks ago the Washington Post ran a story on the removal of Mary Ryan from her position at the State Department. Ms. Ryan at one time was in charge of the office that handles international abduction of children. I am asking the State Department to look into the handling of that office over the past years, just as they are doing other offices that Ms. Ryan was in charge of.

Jeff and Ludwig Koons, just like thousands of other parents, are not getting concrete help from our State Department. If the State Department does not do something about it, then Congress must. Please help us bring our children home.

CONGRATULATING CAPTAIN JOSEPH NIMMICH AND COAST GUARD GROUP KEY WEST

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to congratulate Captain Joseph Nimmich and the rest of the men and women of the United States Coast Guard Group Key West for hosting a community outreach event on Trumbo Point in Key West. This event is sponsored by the Navy League Key West and the Key West Chamber of Commerce Military Affairs Committee.

I am very proud to recognize this group, because the work that they do is truly amazing and selfless. In the average month, the men and women of the Coast Guard Group Key West provide the people of Florida with invaluable services. Saving lives, conducting search-and-rescue missions and providing marine exams and aids to navigation are everyday activities for these brave and selfless individuals.

This is a particularly special event, because it also celebrates the Coast Guard's 212th anniversary with the Key West community.

I ask my Congressional colleagues to join me in congratulating and commending Captain Nimmich and his colleagues on this special celebration.

PROVIDING CORPORATE ACCOUNTABILITY AND REFORM

(Mr. SANDLIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SANDLIN. Mr. Speaker, by now we are all well aware of the recent wave of corporate accounting scandals and the consequent need for systemic reform in this country. Though WorldCom is only one of several high-profile cases of corporate abuse, the sheer size of WorldCom's alleged accounting "error" and the ease with which the company perpetrated this fraud have served as the catalysts for long overdue and much-needed reform.

According to the Wall Street Journal, public pension funds, such as the teacher retirement system in Texas, mutual funds and insurance companies in my home State of Texas, hold approximately \$870 million in WorldCom bonds that are virtually worthless as a result of imminent Chapter 11 bankruptcy filing.

Simply, the type of corporate behavior that has led to WorldCom's meltdown is outrageous. It must end right now.

WorldCom's financial situation, when considered in the context of other recent corporate accounting scandals, raises the troubling question of these scandals' immediate impact on investor confidence, and potentially long-term impact on investors' faith in the integrity of our capital markets.

Access to accurate financial information is essential to the proper functioning of the markets, and as corporate America seems unwilling thus far to enact reasonable financial reforms, Congress must reform the system.

HONORING U.S.-JAPAN MARITIME YOUTH EXCHANGE PROGRAM

(Mr. GUTKNECHT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks and include extraneous material.)

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the U.S.-Japan Maritime Youth Exchange Program. This program brings together high school age students from Japan and the United States for a 3-week program of travel and study in both countries.

It was developed and funded in 1996 through a partnership between the U.S. Navy Memorial Foundation here in Washington and Mr. Kaoru Hasegawa, an unsuccessful World War II Japanese kamikaze pilot and now president of Rengo Company, Limited, in Japan.

Mr. Hasegawa was shot down and then rescued by the crew of the USS *Callaghan* back in World War II. When the survivors of the *Callaghan* invited Mr. Hasegawa to attend their reunion several years ago, it was a very emotional reunion. The desire to share their new-found goodwill and understanding with the next generation of Americans and Japanese led to the creation of the Maritime Youth Exchange Program.

The program's purpose is to teach participants about the historical, cultural and economic factors that impact the two countries' maritime policies and practices. With understanding, respect, teamwork and friendship, the program will work to create a healthy partnership for the future of these two great countries.

Mr. Speaker, I will leave the names of all of the participants, and I congratulate them and wish them the best of luck during their travels.

Mr. Speaker, I include the list of participants for the RECORD.

Adam Meyer of Cary, North Carolina; Titus Wong of Des Plaines, Illinois; Juliet Bintliff of Corpus Christi, Texas; Caroline Toole of Mountain Home, Arkansas; Ashley Thompson of Cincinnati, Ohio; Andrea Claycomb of Euclid, Ohio; Tatsuaki Takanashi of Nagano, Japan; Terumi Tabata of Kagoshima, Japan; Shoko Ishigami of Hyogo, Japan; Yuka Sakai of Saitama, Japan; and Akiko Hasebe of Tokyo, Japan.

RAISING CONCERNS ABOUT CORPORATE ACCOUNTABILITY

(Mr. LANGEVIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my deep concerns about corporate accountability and its impact on our Nation's economic future.

In the wake of recent corporate bombshells, investor confidence in our financial markets has been badly shaken. Congress cannot afford to wait for reports of another tragic example of corporate deception, followed by more lost jobs and depleted pensions.

While I welcome the President's comments during his visit to Wall Street last week, this looming crisis requires a firm commitment from our administration to seriously address this problem. But words, like stocks, lose their value when actions do not back them up.

We must hold those irresponsible few accountable for their actions now and enact safeguards to protect our markets, our workers, our consumers and reputations of companies who do play by the rules. Our economic recovery and the future of millions of American families depend on it.

CONGRATULATING HOUSE FOR EARLY ACTION IN ADDRESSING CORPORATE RESPONSIBILITY

(Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate the House for their early action in addressing corporate responsibility and encourage the conferees to finish their work quickly so that we can get a bill to the President's desk before the August break.

In April, we acted on a strong bipartisan bill to strengthen the accounting oversight of corporate America and punish corporate wrongdoing. Now, finally, the Senate has acted.

Corporate criminals must understand that they will be prosecuted, we will increase their jail time, we will take away their ill-gotten gains. And the money we recover will go to workers and investors who were cheated, not to a trial lawyer windfall.

Our economy is built on confidence, and because of a few dishonest executives, confidence in the market has eroded. But let our actions send a signal to corporate America and the American people: The era of "everything goes" is over. There is a new sheriff in town.

Let me also say to those that I read today and hear today would drag this out as a partisan attempt for gain: Playing politics with the lives, the jobs and the retirement savings of millions of Americans is shameful and will not earn you people's votes; only their contempt.

Mr. Speaker, this is one of the most important issues this Congress is faced with. We must get our economy back on track. This is an important step in the process.

CORPORATE GREED

(Mr. BROWN of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, blatant acts of fraud and misgovernance by executives of some of America's largest companies, most of them large contributors to President

Bush, have destroyed the retirement accounts of millions of Americans. But rather than focus on legislation that will increase corporate account bills, the President and House Republicans are pushing for another huge giveaway to corporate America, Fast Track trade legislation.

The Fast Track agreement opens the door to expansion of NAFTA-style investor rules that empower foreign corporations to sue State and local governments for billions of dollars if consumer and environmental laws interfere with their profits.

A Canadian chemical company has used NAFTA to attack clean water laws in California. A U.S. toxic waste handler successfully challenged the right of a desperately poor Mexican community to block the company from building a toxic dump on top of their water supply.

A new study from Tufts University says NAFTA-style corporate lawsuits will eventually line the pocket of global corporations with \$32 billion per year in U.S. taxpayer funds.

I urge this House to oppose Fast Track when it returns to the House.

LET DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE DEFEND AMERICA

(Mr. DUNCAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, this morning's Wall Street Journal has an editorial which says this about the proposed Homeland Security Department: "It seemed like a good idea at the time. But the more we look at the hash Washington is making of President Bush's proposal for a new Department of Homeland Security, the more we think we would be wiser to call the whole thing off."

Steven Moore, in a column in today's Philadelphia Inquirer, said the new Department would probably cost \$4 billion just in reorganization costs. Then he said, "There are, however, a number of problems with the proposal. First, and most important, we already have a Department of Homeland Security and it is called the Department of Defense. If Defense, which spends about \$350 billion a year, more than almost all of the other nations combined, if Defense isn't spending money on protecting the homeland, what is it spending these funds on? The very reason we had a 9/11 attack was that our government wasn't doing the one thing it is supposed to do: Keep us safe from foreign harm."

This new department will simply make the Federal Government bigger, more bureaucratic and much more expensive, and it will not make it any safer. We should not have to create a Cabinet level department just to get government agencies to cooperate with each other. If we do, the Federal Government is much worse than even I thought it was.

DO NOT EASE TRADE EMBARGO ON CUBA

(Mr. KINGSTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I am very concerned about a proposal that we may have on the floor today to terminate some of the trade embargo between the United States and Cuba.

Mr. Speaker, Cuba is not exactly your stereotypical, friendly next-door neighbor, and there are certain reasons why this island nation has the honor, a very dubious honor, I want to say, of being one of the seven terrorist-supporting nations in the world by the State Department.

In fact, let me quote what our intelligence community says. "The U.S. believes that Cuba has at least a limited, developmentally offensive biological warfare research and development effort. Cuba has provided dual use technology to rogue states. We are concerned that such technology could support biological warfare programs in these states."

Now, easing this trade embargo would merely provide Castro the financial capital he needs to fund his reign of terrorism and abuse. It would be tragic if the legislative actions of this Congress helped finance any attack on its own citizens or any of the citizens around the world.

Now is not the time for us to succumb to the wishes of a maniacal ruler and give in on our trade embargo. We have to keep the bar very, very high, because with the terrorist threat around the world, this is one neighbor we have to be mindful of.

AIRPORT SCREENING FOR AVIATION EMPLOYEES

(Mr. SESSIONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, today I propose and ask the Transportation Secretary to put in place a separate aviation employee screening process by September 1 of this year that will allow airlines to safely and efficiently comply with Federal law.

This separate aviation employee screening process would be uniform from airport to airport, performed by TSA personnel at separate portals from passenger screening, and must take advantage of the new aviation employee credentials that are presently under development.

I ask Transportation Secretary Norm Mineta to appoint a task force to include airline, labor and airport representatives to provide necessary and helpful real-world input and resources in creating and implementing this process.

This task force can greatly enhance the government's ability to meet the proposed September 1 implementation